

Abstract

An upright vacuum cleaner comprises a body 10 including a dust separator 13, a floor engaging head 11 having a first dirty air inlet on its underside, a handle 12 detachably 5 mounted in a socket 15 on the body 10 and having a second dirty air inlet at its lower end, a flexible hose 20 extending between the centre of the handle 12 and the body 10, a valve 23, and a valve actuator 21 disposed in the socket 15 for configuring the valve 23 to connect the dust separator 13 to 10 the first or second inlets respectively when the handle 12 is engaged and disengaged from the body 10.

The second dirty air inlet of the handle 12 is of narrow cross-section to form a tool for above-floor cleaning.

When engaged to the body 10, the upper end of handle 12 15 is used to propel and guide the cleaner whilst suction is applied to the first dirty air inlet in the floor engaging head 11. Once detached, the handle 12 is immediately ready for use as a tool for above-floor cleaning without the user having to manually divert the suction or fit cleaning tools.